

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards
Commission Report – March 2006

CHAPTER 2.5.5.

EQUINE INFLUENZA

Article 2.5.5.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, equine influenza (EI) is defined as an infection of domestic horses which shall include donkeys and mules.

For the purposes of *international trade*, this Chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by equine influenza virus (EIV), but also with the presence of infection with EIV in the absence of clinical signs.

For the purposes of this chapter, isolation is defined as ‘the separation of horses from horses of a different equine influenza health status, with the purpose of preventing the transmission of infection’.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for equine influenza is 21 days.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*. For the purposes of this chapter, a primary vaccination course for an inactivated vaccine comprises two vaccine doses given at an interval specified by the manufacturer; in the case of a live vaccine, one dose constitutes the primary course. Subsequent doses are classified as booster doses.

Article 2.5.5.2.

The EI status of a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* can be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

1. the outcome of a *risk assessment* identifying all potential factors for EI occurrence and their historic perspective;
2. whether EI is notifiable in the whole country, an on-going EI awareness programme is in place, and all notified suspect occurrences of EI are subjected to field and, where applicable, laboratory investigations;
3. appropriate surveillance is in place to demonstrate the presence of infection in the absence of clinical signs in horses; this may be achieved through an EI surveillance programme.

Article 2.5.5.3.

Equine influenza free country, zone or compartment

A country or *zone* or *compartment* may be considered free from EI provided it shows evidence of an effective surveillance programme, planned and implemented according to the general principles in Appendix 3.8.1. The surveillance may need to be adapted to parts of the country, *zone* or *compartment* depending on historical or geographical factors, industry structure, population data, or proximity to recent *outbreaks*.

For a country, *zone* or *compartment* in which vaccination is not practised or is practised at a moderate to low level, the absence of clinical equine influenza in the country, *zone* or *compartment* for the past 12 months should be demonstrated.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* seeking freedom from EI, in which vaccination is practised at a high level, should also demonstrate that EIV has not been circulating in the domestic horse population during the past 12 months, through surveillance at a level sufficient to provide at least a 95% level of confidence of detecting infection if it is present at a prevalence rate exceeding 1%. The level of population immunity required to prevent transmission will depend on the size, composition and density of the susceptible population, but the aim should be to vaccinate at least 80% of the susceptible population. Based on the epidemiology of EI in the country, *zone* or *compartment*, a decision may be reached to vaccinate only certain subsets of the total susceptible horse population.

If an outbreak of clinical equine influenza occurs in a previously free country, *zone* or *compartment*, free status can be regained 12 months after the last clinical case, providing that surveillance for evidence of infection has been carried out during that 12-month period at a level sufficient to provide at least a 95% level of confidence of detecting infection if it is present at a prevalence rate exceeding 1%.

Article 2.5.5.4.

Country, zone or compartment of undetermined equine influenza status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* may be considered of undetermined status when it does not meet the conditions for free status.

Article 2.5.5.5.

Regardless of the EI status of the *exporting country, zone* or *compartment*, the *Veterinary Administration* of a country, *zone* or *compartment* should authorise without restriction on account of EI the importation into their *territory* of the following *commodities*:

- a) semen;
- b) *in vivo* derived equine embryos collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.3.1.

Article 2.5.5.6.

When importing horses for immediate slaughter, the *Veterinary Administration* of an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

- 1) came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; or
- 2) came from a country, *zone* or *compartment* of undetermined EI status and had been subjected to pre-export isolation for 21 days, and showed no clinical sign of EI during isolation nor on the day of shipment.

Article 2.5.5.7.

When importing horses for immediate slaughter, the *Veterinary Administration* of a country, *zone* or *compartment* of undetermined EI status should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

- 1) came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; or
- 2) came from a country, *zone* or *compartment* of undetermined EI status and showed no clinical sign of EI on the day of shipment.

Article 2.5.5.8.

When importing horses for unrestricted movement, the *Veterinary Administration* of an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

- 1) came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days;

OR

- 2) came from a country, *zone* or *compartment* of undetermined EI status, were subjected to pre-export isolation for 21 days and showed no clinical sign of EI during isolation nor on the day of shipment; and
- 3) were vaccinated between 14 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster.

Article 2.5.5.9.

When importing horses for unrestricted movement, the *Veterinary Administration* of a country, *zone* or *compartment* of undetermined EI status should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

- 1) came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated horse, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

- 2) came from a country, *zone* or *compartment* of undetermined EI status and showed no clinical sign of EI on the day of shipment; and
- 3) were vaccinated between 14 and 180 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster.

Article 2.5.5.10.

When importing horses which will be kept in isolation, the *Veterinary Administration* of an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

- 1) came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated horse, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

- 2) showed no clinical sign of EI in any premises in which the horses had been resident for the 30 days prior to shipment nor on the day of shipment; and
- 3) were vaccinated between 14 and 180 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster;
- 4) (where applicable) had been kept in isolation except during competition.

Article 2.5.5.11.

When importing horses which will be kept in isolation, the *Veterinary Administration* of a country, *zone* or *compartment* of undetermined EI status should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

- 1) came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated horse, information on its vaccination status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

- 2) showed no clinical sign of EI in any premises in which the horses had been resident for the 30 days prior to shipment nor on the day of shipment; and
- 3) were vaccinated between 14 and 180 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster;
- 4) (where applicable) had been kept in isolation except during competition.

Article 2.5.5.12.

When importing *fresh* horse *meat*, the *Veterinary Administration* of a country, *zone* or *compartment* should require:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *fresh meat*:

- 1) came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which the horses from which the meat was derived had been resident for at least 21 days; or
- 2) came from horses which had been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections as described in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for Meat Hygiene.